



ST. MARTIN
Join Judy as she takes
us on a tour of this
beautiful Caribbean Island



Elkhorn Echo

**News for Elkhorn Owners
Association Members**

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RCI OWNER ORIENTATION SESSIONS

To learn how to make the most of your membership, please phone the Owner Services Office to set up an appointment for a 1-on-1 orientation with one of our Owner Services team members.

Call 1-888-462-8785 or 1-866-856-3437.



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Property Manager's Update Improving the Guest Experience

It's spring in the Canadian Rockies and we are looking forward to some warm days after a long, cold winter. Here are some property updates, as well as some events and activities to do this summer if you're visiting Canmore.

At the direction of the Elkhorn Owners Association Board, we have made several improvements over the last year at Falcon Crest Lodge. We have installed new Broil King barbecues and we have purchased new Lagostina cookware for the suites. We purchased Samsung Flatscreen LED televisions and "smart" Blu-Ray DVD players that are connected through WiFi to Netflix and YouTube to complement the new digital cable installed by Shaw Cable.

For 2014 we have new linen on order which will be placed in the rooms shortly and we are always looking for new ways to improve guest experiences.

At The Lodges at Canmore, we also installed new Broil King barbecues and placed new Lagostina cookware in all the suites. We installed Samsung Flatscreen LED televisions in the living rooms, as well as improved our WiFi services with Rogers Rocket Hubs. Shaw Cable installed digital cable boxes in all of our suites. We have purchased new dining room tables to replace those that are damaged



Chris Kern

and have increased the table settings to 10 utensils, glassware and plates to facilitate family dinners. In the next months we will be replacing the flooring in the remaining five suites and are

continuing to do maintenance and touch-up painting in the suites where necessary.

The switch in September 2013 for the property management from Bellstar to PEKA Property Management has proven to be successful. PEKA closely works with The Lodges at Canmore condo board to choose contractors who will do the best job for the best price for all the common areas and grounds. The common areas are noticeably cleaner and issues that were left undone by Bellstar have been taken care of and cleaned.

Maintenance of the property is more pro-actively managed and is noticeably better with our pool and hot tubs having been serviced and repaired and other lingering maintenance issues have been taken care of.

The hallways and common areas of Phase 2 – Cougar Lodge have been painted

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www.elkhornowners.ca

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ISLAND GETAWAY

ST-MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN

Vacation time is always so exciting.

We pack and try to figure out what we have forgotten, but it really doesn't matter. As long as we have our passports, credit cards, medication, and insurance card,

we are good to go. The bracelet we forget, or the extra pair of shoes that never made it into the suitcase, don't make or break the holiday.

This year my husband, Lamont, son, Brian, and I decided to go somewhere different. Off we went to St. Martin—one small island, two different countries, 36 square miles. We did our research and decided to go to two different RCI resorts for our two-week stay. The island is half Dutch (Sint Maarten) and half French (Saint-Martin), but both resorts were on the Dutch side.

Landing in St. Martin is an experience—small island, big plane, short runway. The start of our adventure was at the RCI resort Sapphire Beach Club #2637 in Cupecoy



Lamont & Judy George

Beach, about three kilometres from the airport. We grabbed our luggage and got a cab. Just as we had heard, cabs were expensive. What a great location, right near the Blue Mall and Porto Cupecoy Mall & Marina where the Le Gourmet Marche (grocery store) is located.

When we go somewhere, planning out each day is not one of our virtues. We know what we want to see, but when is always a question.

After dropping off our suitcases, we checked out the area, eventually making our way to the grocery store. Two things we learned very quickly: some things in St. Martin are expensive; and even though they all say the Euro is the way to go, American dollars are the best bet. Glad we brought all those Euros instead of dollars.

The Sapphire Beach Club is a smaller resort. Staff were very friendly, but this was definitely not a Gold Crown. The unit was clean, the largest we have ever had for a one-bedroom, sleeping six. The view was breathtaking. Overlooking the ocean, you could sit on the huge balcony and be amazed. Repairs that needed to be done (such as

the shower head falling off) were put on the maintenance list. What happened to it after that is unknown since despite asking twice about the repair, no one ever showed up to fix it. No big deal for us; we could still use the tub and had another shower. It's what you make of it, and it wasn't going to ruin our holiday.

There were no beaches right at the resort, but two great ones were really close by. During the first full day we checked out Mullet Beach, along the golf course. We were on our way to Sunset Beach, a small but touristy area. This is where everyone goes to see the planes come in. Coming in so low, you felt like you could almost touch them. It's really something you have to see! From there we stopped for lunch and then kept on walking. Through Beacon Hill we went, admiring all the gorgeous homes, leading up to Simpson Bay. Everyone was so friendly.

Soon we realized we were miles from the resort and we didn't have the energy to walk back. Local transit was wonderful. Vans are used, and were well marked as to what area they were going to. We just flagged one down, told the driver where we wanted to go, and they gave us the price. For the three of us

it was \$4.50 (pay when you get off) right to the hotel lobby.

After a little rest, we decided to go out for dinner. Down the street, which was up the hill, there were many restaurants to choose from. St. Martin is hilly, so for people with mobility problems, walking could be an issue.

Renting a car was a must for the Island, even if it was just for a day. Driving was easy, with the most courteous drivers I have ever seen. Constant honking was heard, but it was their way of saying thank you. The cars were small, but that was all we needed. We took pictures of the car when we checked it over, right in front of the clerk. We had a record of the damages, and they knew we had the pictures. Paper work was done—destination Marigot—which was on the French side.

Off we went, determined to not let the traffic circles get the best of us. Right away someone honked at us, but then we realized they were letting us pull onto the road.

Marigot has an open market so we wanted to check it out. By the time we got there, the fresh fish was sold out, but we still had an enjoyable time. From t-shirts to bags, all the touristy things could be found right there, along with spices and tropical fruits. From there we walked through the town and decided to stop for lunch at the Marina. Since we were on the French side, we decided to go to a French restaurant. We found the perfect one, with white linens and fresh flowers: Café de Paris (4 ½ stars-out-of-5 rating). Having the special—fresh fish and shrimp—was just what I wanted.

Then we were off to Fort St. Louis, the largest historical monument on St. Martin. The fort was built in 1767 to protect the settlement at Marigot from invaders. It's about 100 stairs to the top, zigzagging back and forth. The sun was shining and humidity was high. I was prepared; I had my water with me. It was all worth it, though. We had a panoramic view of the island and the sea surrounding it—totally breathtaking!

We drove around to all the different towns and beaches; each spot was so different from the last. Some of the areas were gated, so we

had to ask the guard if we could go through. They let us as long as we promised not to take pictures of people or villas. From what I have heard, some rich and famous people have villas there.

Saturday was our day to move over to Royal Islander Club Great Bay #7628 in Philipsburg. The pictures we saw through RCI were unbelievable.

We had been on the go, and I wanted to get settled and just take a nap on a huge terrace, enjoying the view. The one-bedroom unit was nice and clean—everything we could want. We did not get the beautiful terrace with the potted palm trees, but a small balcony overlooking the pool. When I asked to be moved, I was informed that the other units were not part of RCI. I understood, but still didn't like it. The ocean was right there, with cruise ships lined up, and yachts bigger than my house glistening on the water. We poured ourselves a drink and took in the view.

Philipsburg was definitely a tourist city. The Boardwalk has so many restaurants and bars, it was hard to decide where to stop. All the souvenirs we could ever want were found there or on Front Street. Items made of gold were sold in almost every shop. Being duty-free, the prices seemed too good to be true!

I soon realized I should have done my homework on jewelry. I wasn't sure if I was looking at real stones in the ring I loved, or if it was really a good price. The stores in Philipsburg are known to provide you with a "drink" while you browse. Brian didn't want to be rude and took them up on their offer. Not in a rush, I decided to think about my purchase and come back another day.

Being only four to five streets deep, we decided to check out the rest of the area. Back Street took us right into the real Philipsburg. I soon realized this was not a place I wanted to be at night. Lamont and Brian thought it was great, with little bars and restaurants where the locals go.

As it started to get dark around 6:00 p.m., stores started closing their doors. Cruise ships were preparing to leave, so there was

no reason to stay open. However, restaurants on the Boardwalk did stay open later.

One disadvantage about planning on finding the perfect ring at a later date was that I never thought I was going to get sick. It should never happen when you are on holidays, but it did. On Saturday, I thought I was just tired; On Sunday, I slept most of the day. My big adventure was going to the balcony for about five minutes, and then heading back to bed. This was not good. By Monday morning, I had no energy to even move.

I know firsthand that the hospital in St. Martin is very good. Dengue fever, which is carried by mosquitos, is prevalent in the Caribbean, so I needed to be tested. Lamont and I had to wait a few hours in the emergency room, and then they hooked me up to an IV and did blood tests. Results showed a bacterial infection, probably food poisoning. Antibiotics were what I needed.

Even though we had insurance, we had to pay the fees of \$250 US. (After sending my medical bills to our provincial health care, and to my private insurance company, we were not out any money.)

We went down the hall to the pharmacy, then we were back to the hotel. Thinking back, I started feeling off soon after we ate in Marigot, but thought I was just overdoing it. After two more days in bed, Lamont and Brian decided they could now leave me and tour the town.

Friday was our last full day. We did a bit of walking, but never did go back to get the ring I loved. We didn't get in the water, though the beach did look very nice. The hotel seemed to have all the amenities you could want, but I didn't get to enjoy any of them.

We will definitely consider going back to St. Martin. Cupecoy is the area we would stay in. We enjoyed going for late dinners, checking out the casino, and going for a stroll. Philipsburg will be a day trip we will take. But, our next holiday will not be to the Caribbean; it's time to visit some place new. — Judy George



There are some great upcoming Canmore events to check out this summer. Other great events to be found at www.tourismcanmore.com/event-calendar.

FATHERS' DAY CAR SHOW & SHINE

Sunday, June 15th, 2014. 12-4 pm

The Rolling Sculpture Car Club will be holding its annual Fathers Day Charity Car Show. All proceeds to support the "Food for Learning" program in the Canmore Schools which provides meals to students that come to school without proper nourishment. A popular event that boasts cars from every era both locally and from clubs in Calgary and beyond. rollingsculpture.ca/category/upcoming-events

CANADA DAY PARADE

Tuesday July 1, 2014

Canmore's Canada Day Parade attracts visitors from all over the country to celebrate Canada in the majesty of the Canadian Rockies. Start the day with a free pancake breakfast at 8AM, and then move to Main Street to enjoy the Canada Day Parade which is filled with several marching bands and floats of all shapes and sizes. This is a major parade used by many groups as a tune up for the Calgary Stampede and is followed by music and activities in the park, a must see event. canadadayincanmore.ca

24 HOURS OF ADRENALIN

Saturday July 19, 2014 – Canmore Nordic Centre

For 20 years the 24 Hours of Adrenalin has become the "not to miss event" of the summer for mountain biking weekend warriors. This event is focused on teamwork, camaraderie, family and friends. The first 24 Hours of Adrenalin (in Alberta) was staged at the Canmore Nordic Centre with just over 100 participants taking part. Now each year the event sells out nearly a year in advance at our capped participant number of 1,650. www.24hoursofadrenalin.com/canmore/ For other adrenalin-filled biking and running events, visit www.CanmoreNordicCentre.ca.

Property Manager's Update

continued from front page

and had new carpet installed making the building look fresh and new. Outside landscaping and maintenance is underway to improve the outside appearance of the property as well.

Elkhorn is proud to announce that we will be taking over The Lodges at Canmore hotel rental pool as of September 1, 2014. This will lead to better Front Desk service and housekeeping for our RCI/Elkhorn guests and provide our members with preferred rates on rentals at The Lodges. — *Chris Kern, Canmore Property Manager*

CANMORE FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 2, 2014 - Monday, August 4, 2014 – Centennial Park

The Canmore Folk Music Festival is the longest running folk music festival in Alberta and one of its finest. Adhering to a philosophy and legacy of folk, world, blues and roots music, the festival since 1978 has attracted up to 15,000 music fans annually. www.canmorefolkmusicfestival.com

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

Sunday, August 31, 2014 – Centennial Park

The Celtic spirit prevails in Canmore when hundreds of participants of Highland Dance, Piping, Drumming, Running and Heavy Sports give their best performances in their quest for excellence. www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

Canmore Property Manager Chris Kern's "The Best of Canmore and the Rockies":

Best new place to eat & drink: Tavern 1883. Next to the Civic Centre in downtown Canmore is a new eatery & pub that the locals are raving about. In the old Zona's Bistro location, Tavern 1883 serves fresh food that surprises. Their menu looks simple, but wait until you taste it! www.tavern1883.com

Best restaurant for big appetites: Gaucho Brazilian BBQ. Located in the heart of downtown Canmore is a meat lovers dream, vegetarians need not apply. One price gets you all the succulent cuts of beef, pork, chicken and lamb you can eat as well as a great salad bar. They won't stop coming to your table with skewers of meat until you "tap out" and show a red card. You can always start again after awhile so bring your appetite and make sure you leave lots of time and wear stretchy pants. www.brazilianbbq.ca/index.shtml

Best new attraction: Glacier Skywalk. Perched almost 1000ft above Sunwapta Valley is a glass-floored observation platform that takes you out

over the valley to some unmatched viewing of mountains and glaciers. Located a 2½ hour drive from Canmore on the way to Jasper up the beautiful Icefields Parkway, the Glacier Skywalk is the newest must see attraction in the Canadian Rockies. glacierskywalk.ca

Best Family Hike in Canmore: Grassi Lakes. The trail winds past a waterfall where it eventually leads you to two majestic turquoise lakes. You can't miss the panoramic views of Canmore that surround you every step of the hike. Trailhead begins on Spray Lakes Road, just 2 kms past the Nordic Centre on the left, down a hill. Local tip: take the "harder" route on the way up to catch the waterfall and the views but take the easy fire road back down after. www.trailpeak.com/trail-Grassi-Lakes-Trail-near-Canmore-AB-6066

Best Road Bike Trail: Legacy Trail Canmore to Banff. The route runs parallel to the highway and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. The Legacy Trail is a great trail for families and cyclists of all abilities to enjoy. You can bike right from the Falcon Crest Lodge or the Lodges at Canmore and catch the start of the trail opposite to the Travel Alberta Centre on the 1A Hwy/Bow Valley Trail. If you don't feel like riding back to Canmore you can catch the Roam shuttle bus in Banff, put your bikes on the front rack and board the bus for the short trip back to Canmore. Get off at the Radisson and you are only a block or two from the resorts. www.canmore.ca/News-and-Publications/Latest-News/Legacy-Trail.html

Best Mountain Bike Trails: The Canmore Nordic Centre. Not only for winter fun, the Nordic Centre offers some of the best mountain biking in the Canadian Rockies. The centre's network of over 100 kilometres of trails include wide dirt roads for leisurely rides to scenic lookouts; narrower cross-country ski trails for more challenge on rolling terrain; and single-track trails for advanced riders. Trail Sports located on-site offers mountain bike rentals, sales and repairs, as well as lessons and guided tours. Check out: www.albertaparks.ca/canmore-nordic-centre.aspx

Best place to go to just relax: Quarry Lake Canmore: Quarry Lake Park is one of Canmore's favourite outdoor recreational areas. Located along Spray Lakes Road on the south side of the Bow Valley it has spectacular views of Ha Ling Peak, Mount Lady MacDonald, and the Rundle Range. You can go for a dip in the lake on a hot summer day or just relax on the shore. www.canmore.ca/Recreation-Parks-and-Facilities/Bookable-Parks/Quarry-Lake-Park.html or quarrylakecanmore.ca/quarry_lake_park_location.html

Best Lake Canoe Spot: Moraine Lake (near Lake Louise). Moraine Lake is a glacier-fed lake situated in the beautiful Valley of the Ten Peaks near Lake Louise in Banff National Park. Canoes are available to rent by the hour at the docks and the views in the Valley of the Ten Peaks are some of the best in the Rockies, once featured on the back of our \$20 bill. Local Tip – In the summer it's best to get there early before those coming from Calgary choke up the limited parking lot. www.morainelake.com

Moilah Sitotombe – Guest Services Canmore

Moilah has over five years of experience with Elkhorn Resorts and she was the former front desk supervisor at The Lodges at Canmore.



Moilah Sitotombe

"I was born and raised in Zimbabwe, Africa. I came to Canada as an international student studying at Niagara College. I have enjoyed working with Elkhorn Resorts a great deal since 2009. I currently reside in Canmore with my husband and son and enjoy baking and cooking."

RCI® Cheap Inventory

The Feature highlighted in this edition is the "Cheap Inventory". Points Owners who have a smaller Points package or who have 10,000 points or less will benefit from this feature.

You can narrow your search under the tab **Search for an Exchange Vacation** by selecting **Points range** from the filters on the left side

of the map towards the bottom of the page. Click on **0-10,000 points**. From there you can proceed to narrow your search further to the areas in the world that are of interest to you and confirm your reservation as usual.

Just another great way to make your Ownership and RCI work for you!

Elkhorn Owners Association 2014-2015 Board of Directors

Don Turnbull.....	Calgary, AB.....	President
Ian Jones.....	Calgary, AB.....	Vice President
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Chris Kern.....	Canmore, AB.....	Director at large
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SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

We would love for you to share your experiences and memories about your ownership with us so we can put them on

our website in the testimonial section. Email photos and comments to mandi@elkhornresort.mb.ca.

Owner Services Office Staff Information

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Phone: 1-888-462-8785
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Judy George service@elkhornresort.mb.ca

Monday to Wednesday you can reach:

Linda W. linda@elkhornresort.mb.ca

CANMORE OFFICE

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9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

Monday to Friday you can reach:

Chris Kern chris.kern@elkhornresort.mb.ca

Wednesday to Sunday you can reach:

Moilah moilah@elkhornresort.mb.ca

THANK YOU, ELAINE!

We would like to let all members know of an upcoming change within the Owner Services Department.

Elaine Louheed has worked with the Elkhorn Resort Vacation for Life – Owner Services Department since February 2007. She has shared her expertise regarding the RCI program with members over the years by providing one-on-one orientations, has passed on her *Excursions with Elaine* in past newsletters, and has filled an integral role at the Owner Services office. We wish Elaine the absolute best as she begins her next adventure; she is retiring at the end of June. Thank you, Elaine, for all your hard work and dedication. We are all going to miss you.



MEMBER NOTICES

Reminder: Annual Maintenance Fees

Please accept this notice as your reminder that **annual maintenance fees** are mailed out to each member by November 1st of each year and are due by November 30th of each year.

Pre-Authorized payments, either monthly or annually, have assisted many of our Owners to overcome obstacles that previously resulted in past-due payments and the associated fees. Contact the Owner Services Office today to receive assistance in setting up your pre-authorized payment!

ATTENTION: Any account with an outstanding amount due at this time will be sent to the collections department to proceed to small claims court, and your personal credit report with the credit bureau will be updated.

Important Reminder:

Third-Party Resell Companies

Elkhorn Resort will not work with or assist third party resell companies. This decision was made in the best interests of you, the member, and the condo association that you belong to.

There are a number of third party companies that claim they will sell your ownership for you or rent it out on your behalf. This is a scam! Do not provide personal information or send them any money.



CAUTION!

Please use extreme caution if you are purchasing a timeshare in Mexico and believe you are trading in your property. You are the legal owner of your property until the land title is transferred out of your name. When purchasing in Mexico, you may be advised that you are trading in your property, but the company does not go through the process of completing the transfer. Essentially you are left owning two properties and are responsible for both maintenance fees.